CLIMATOLOGICAL NETWORK
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JULY 1994

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Dear Observer,

Here we are already into July. In the south we have had our fair share of good weather with temperatures in the mid twenties Celsius. From the point of view of George, Shirley and myself, the main thing we hope for are dry and relatively calm conditions in which to conduct our station visits. So far there are no real complaints although I did have one particularly wet day in North Wales ..... but that's another story.

The object of the Summer Newsletter is to acquaint you the Observer with happenings of interest in the meteorological world. So let's go!

WET BULB THERMOMETERS

During hot, dry conditions the muslin and wick on the wet bulb thermometer soon become dirty and contaminated. It is recommended that it should be changed every week, and more often at coastal stations. The muslin and wick should be kept moist at all times, so do please remember to top up the reservoir, preferably with distilled water, or in an emergency, clean rain water... BUT NEVER TAP WATER. It is best if this is done after the 0900 GMT daily reading (rather than before).

METFORM 4423

Those of you with Tilting Siphon Rain-gauges (TSR) should note that Rainfall chart 4423 is being phased out. In future the only chart available will be 4423A. These are printed in red and have dotted intensity lines on them.

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORTS

On our travels we are constantly asked what has happened to the MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT (MWR), which has not been published since April 1992. Enquiries to Data Publications reveal that the May and June 1992 issues were about to be distributed when it was discovered that a page was missing from the May issue. It was therefore necessary to return the copy to the printers. It was decided at this point, that, in order to avoid confusion, the June issue would be held back until the May issue was complete and they would then be distributed together. Are you now thoroughly confused? I am!

Following the eventual publication of May and June 1992 there will be a gap of unknown duration while a new system of compiling the MWR is introduced. Thereafter, issues should be received regularly ad infinitum. Should you need further clarification you can call the editor, Mrs Margaret Rudd, on 0344 856829.

COURSES FOR CO-OPERATING OBSERVER'S

One Monday evening in late June Shirley and Phil spent a very pleasant time meeting Observers attending a course at Shinfield Park. Drinks on the lawn, pleasant company, good food, cats chasing rabbits, constructive chat about bare earth patches and the need for them. All these could be yours by attending one of the 5 courses that are planned for 94/95.

A letter and application form were sent out to all Climat Stations at the end of April 1994. If you have not received it or have mislaid your copy, please give us a ring and we will send you another. If you are still thinking whether or not to come, why not be positive and fill out the form now. I'm sure you can find the time and there's bound to be someone who can stand in for you during your absence.... Go on, the change will do you good, and you will return to your station filled with burgeoning enthusiasm to observe the weather. Or something like that.

REPORTING MIST AND HAZE

Another hoary old chestnut that keeps cropping up is that of when to report mist and when to report haze in the present weather section (columns 8 and 9 of the 3208B. Having consulted with Jem Gillham at the Met. Office College, we offer the following advice.

Mist should be reported if the visibility is considered to be outside fog limits, i.e. more than 1000m, and the readings from the dry bulb thermometer and the wet bulb thermometer are within approximately ½°C of each other. If the difference between the two thermometers is greater than approximately ½°C, then haze should be reported. As with all observing practices, it must be remembered that you are the observer and your decision is the one that counts.

NEGATIVE TEMPERATURES

You're never too old or experienced to learn. A participant on the recent CO5/93 course at the College uses the following method to cross check negative temperatures on the Metform 3208B with those in the Pocket register. He enters ALL negative temperatures in the Pocket Register in RED. When the 3208B is completed, he checks that the number of X's for the negative temperatures are the same as the number of red entries in his Pocket register. If there is a difference, something is wrong!!! The College instructors may well be recommending this practice on future courses.

Finally, a plea from us all at OP1a, CLIMAT, for advance warning of any impending site moves etc. In order to keep our records straight, it would be appreciated if you would also keep us informed of new telephone numbers, new addresses, new observer's names and any other details you think may be relevant to us.

It only remains to say thank you to all of you for your continuing co-operation with the Met. Office and we hope to meet many of you during our summer visits. If you have any problems or just fancy a chat, please do give one of us a ring.

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